

Arizona Forest Health Council
Notice of Public Meeting of a Public Body
Sections 7.6, 7.7.4 and 7.9.1
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE –
Arizona Forest Health Council

Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431, notice is hereby given to the members of the Arizona Forest Health Council and to the general public that the **Arizona Forest Health Council** will hold a meeting open to the public:

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Building 74 Conference Room
3700 Willow Creek Road
Prescott, AZ 86301
March 15, 2012
10 AM – 12 PM
Tele Conference Number: 1-877-820-7831
Passcode: 219418#

Minutes (Final with correction)

1. Call to Order – 10:00 am Co-Chair, Ethan Aumack

Members Present:

Co-Chair Ethan Aumack, Don Berry, Diane Vosick for Wally Covington, Christine Dawe, Steve Gatewood, Bruce Hallin, Larry Stephenson for Mark Herrington, Steven Rosenstock, Sue Sitko, and Ron Williams.

Members via Tel-Conference:

None

Members Absent:

Pascal Berlioux, Kent Bushman, Rob Davis, Scott Hunt, Kevin Kinsall, Mayor Sara Presler, Todd Schulke, Darrell Willis

Public:

James Downey, George Howard, Marcus Selig and Laura Heath

Tony Sciacca welcomed the Forest Health Council members to the Arizona Wildfire & Incident Management Academy. Members were invited to join them for lunch.

Ethan stated that the members attendance was low today due to spring break and members of the FHC making presentations for the Legislature today.

2. Approval of the Minutes from the January FHC Meeting ~

- Don Berry moved for approval; Steve Rosenstock second.
- Minutes approved as written.

3. **Summary of Council business since last FHC meeting ~ Ethan Aumack**

- Small sub-set working group meetings were held to discuss all suggested changes and finalize for submission to Kevin on the FHC Policy Recommendations .
- At the last FHC meeting, Scott Hunt was named Co-Chair. Scott and Pascal Berlioux were at the Legislature this morning testifying on HB2332 Healthy Forest Incentives Bill. Scott may join us by phone today.

4. **Council Representation Update ~ Scott Hunt (by Ethan Aumack)**

- Ethan reported that letters of appointment were received and sent to the following: Scott Hunt, Christine Dawe, Sue Sitko, Kent Bushman, and Bruce Hallin. All members have received their letters.
- Randy Ogden, Fire Chief Mt Lemmon Fire District and Rosalyn Boxer, VP of Workforce Development, AZ Commerce Authority have or will be submitting applications. Arizona Cattleman's Association has provided a contact for the ranching member and Don Berry provided a Tribal member from the Hopi Community. Need to see if Larry Bishop U of A representation did an application. Alternates also have to complete applications.
- Ethan – Marcus - David has not submitted; Christine needs to identify alternate. Steve R G&F has alternate. Sue Sitko Government Agency person works with Kevin -has alternate. Ethan suggest to have Scott push harder for alternate participation

5. **State of the State Report ~ Kevin Kinsall/Scott Hunt (by Ethan Aumack)**

- ***Forestry Related Legislation Status*** ~ Ethan reported extensive notes from Scott. Will send out following meeting today. HB 2232 is still alive. On agenda for Thursday March 15. HB2336 died in the House resurrected as SB1118. Being heard in House AG & Water Committee Thursday. HB2494 passed the House has not gone to the COW. SB1231 appropriates attorney general office monies for legal action against USFS for destruction of endangered species habitat. To be heard Thursday in House Ag & Water committee.
- Further discussion took place regarding these bills. Steve G. stated that Ethan and Scott can be advisors for bills to Governor.
- ***Fuels Grants*** ~ Western Fire Hazardous Fuels Grant applications closed last week. Thirty-six applications from entities across the State requesting over \$4.5 million in grant funds were received. We do not know how much will be awarded.
- ***2012 Fire Season*** ~ Ethan reported that the fire season is a concern in the 3500+ elevations. SE Arizona has some grass crops that may be issues. Lower deserts below 3500 feet have not produced enough grasses at this time. So far the season has been average.
- Steve Gatewood requested that the drought information be put on the Forest Health Council website.

- ***Prescribed Fire Council*** ~ Ethan reported that the Coconino National Forest and other area fire agencies are discussing forming a Statewide Prescribed Fire Council. Will probably fall under the AICG. FHC is supportive of concept. Provide more information when received.

6. FHC Recommended Priorities ~ Ethan Aumack

- Ethan requested FHC recommendations from Marcus Selig.
- Marcus stated that the finalized recommendations were sent to Kevin Kinsall on 2/10/12. Waiting for HB2332 to pass. We need a letter from Governor's office or congressional obligation after signing of bill. Governor and Co-Chair to meet with forest staff to recommend USFS, BLM, BIA, as well as Western Governor's Advisory Council should communicate forestry awareness. Every FHC member should receive a copy as well as subcommittee members.
- Ethan stated a memo was sent to Kevin Kinsall as to whether there are opportunities to highlight forest fires and forest restoration in month of April. Governor's profile a good opportunity to communicate and be pro-active with key issues. We have an opportunity to convey these messages. Don't know what other instances we may have.
- Discussion followed on effective avenues for counties. Good photo opportunities for preventative as well as suppression information and forward to FHC. The recommendation to convey forest health issues is through a statewide survey.
- **Recommendation of one page key messages on issues, problems and behaviors. Subcommittee to work on this – Steve, Diane and Sue**
- **Send information out to FHC when complete, then to Governor.**
- May 2 will be opportunity to convey messages at Healthy Living Forest Health

7. 4FRI Update / CEQ Pilot ~Marcus Selig

- Marcus stated that 4FRI was selected as a CEQ intended to look at NEPA. This will take lessons learned and more into the analysis. 4FRI wants the Forest Service to get involved in setting up bi-weekly
- Marcus said that selected areas to work with 4FRI to put treasured Landscape in White Mountains? They are looking at the end of May or beginning of June.

8. Apache County/USFS Fuels Treatment Participating Agreement ~ Christine Dawe

- Christine Dawe stated that Apache County passed to take action on Federal Land. The land west and north that has not been treated. A meeting with the county took place to determine action taken on federal lands and working with the agreements, types of work (treatment or prescribed fire) and private land. Would like to work with to create a master agreement. Discussion transpired regarding the use of students and inmate crews.

9. White Mountain Wildfire Forum ~ Ron Williams

- Ron stated that they are working on rescheduling the Wildfire Forum to be held in the White Mountains. Topics will include forest treatment, federal grants, Firewise, Ready-Set-Go. Ron is working with Kevin Boness of State Forestry. Target date is April 18.
- Don Berry will coordinate with Kevin to get the Frontier Room.
- Marcus stated that the water commission and USFS met for watershed and risks and provided ideas on finance payment on utility bills.

10. **Working Group Updates**

- ***Coordination Oversight Group/ Climate ~ Christine Dawe***
 - Rejuvenate the group as an ad hoc committee
 - Steve Gatewood has been nominated to the Conservation Collation Committee
- ***Forest Plan Revisions ~ Diane Vosick***
 - Nothing to report.
- ***Smoke Issues ~ Steve Gatewood***
 - Steve recommended that we take the smoke issue/topic of the work group and make it a fire and smoke issue topic. We will be able to evaluate potential impacts of smoke, prescribed burning, managed fire, wildfire, etc. as we move into increased fire needs for forest restoration under the 4FRI, Firescape and other projects and then make policy recommendations.
 - Set up meeting with Fire Council
 - Ethan will get with Scott on Phase 2 of the Fire Policy
 - Meeting was held in Reno – what was discussed at the national level
- ***Interaction with WGA ~ Todd Schulke***
 - Nothing to report
- ***Economic-Utilization Working Group ~ Scott Hunt***
 - Nothing to report

12. **Call to the Public** ~ None

13. **Meeting Schedule and Locations**

- May 10, 2012 will be in Payson
- July 12, 2012 location TBD
- September 13, 2012 will be in Flagstaff
- November 8, 2012 will be in Tucson

This is the time for the public to comment. Members of the Board may not discuss items that are not on the agenda. Therefore, action taken as results of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter or scheduling the matter for further considerations and decisions at a later date.

*Dated this April 2, 2012
Governor's Forest Health Council
<http://www.governor.state.az.us/FHC/>*